

## LIEUT. DIGBY'S JOURNAL.

## THE CAMPAIGNS OF CARLETON AND BURGOYNE.

THE BRITISH INVASION FROM THE NORTH. The Campaigns of Generals Carleton and Burgoyne from Canada, 1776-1777. With the Journal of Lieutenant William Digby, of the 53d or Shropshire Regiment of Foot. Illustrated with Historical Notes, by JAMES PHINNEY BANTER, A. M. Sm. 4to, pp. 412. Albany: Joel Munsell's Sons.

Mr. Baxter's contributions to the long list of historical documents relating to the campaigns of 1776-1777 are of decided value and consequence. The conscientious detail and patient thoroughness of his research have brought together a number of hitherto unrecorded facts and corrected some considerable errors in the accepted chronicles. His own account of the movements of Carleton and Burgoyne and the succeeding Journal of Lieutenant William Digby, of the 53d Foot, bring out in perhaps stronger relief than ever the amazingly systematic blundering which marked the whole course of the Government of George the Third in its war with the Colonies, and which contributed so largely to the accomplishment of American independence. In the world's history there are not many instances of this kind. As a rule the justice of a cause bears no relation to its fate in the field, and the frequency with which right has been overruled by might has in all ages been the justification of pessimistic theories. In the War of Independence, however, it may be said that the stars in their courses fought against England. Again and again the colonists seemed on the verge of crushing defeat. Again and again, when physical force failed, the enemy's own ingenerable follies baffled his plans and gave the weaker side breathing-space and reprieve.

In the campaigns from Canada in 1776-1777 the fidelity which overshadowed the English conduct of the war was manifested in peculiar form. The expedition which set out from Canada, and before which Ticonderoga fell so inertly and ingloriously, certainly owed its initial success far less to its inherent strength than to the inexorable negligence of the American commander who expended all his energies in strengthening the immediate defences of the fort, and permitted the British to occupy and arm a height which commanded all his works and rendered them untenable. On its face this blunder of St. Clair, and his evacuation of the fort without destroying the magazines of food and ammunition, appear gross misfortunes, and as such they were felt at the time. But they possibly exercised an important influence upon subsequent events, and they may have contributed to the shaping of the following campaign, which terminated in the collapse and surrender of Burgoyne's whole force.

Had Ticonderoga been properly defended, it is certain that its siege would have occupied the English so long that nothing more could have been done during that campaign. There is no probability that the fort could have finally repulsed so strong an expedition. It would have been taken, but the siege would have delayed the British advance. In one way this delay would have helped Washington and his lieutenants, but on the other, it would have probably insured the co-operation of Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne in 1777, and no one now requires to be told that the "convention" of Saratoga was primarily due to the supineness of the first of these three commanders.

Not that Burgoyne failed to commit whatever errors were possible to him, and of which the gravest was the expedition which resulted in the disaster of Bennington. Count Tolstoi has expressed the opinion that campaigns depend mainly upon the ranks and file and that the commanders have little or no influence upon results. The campaigns of which Mr. Baxter and Lieutenant Digby write certainly went counter to this theory of war.

The troops employed on the English side were as effective as the world at that time could produce. Both English and Germans were veterans, tried to war, drilled to perfection and of proved gallantry. They fought splendidly whenever they were brought on the field. The Germans, as has long since been demonstrated, were though stern, excellent soldiers, and in general well behaved and quiet. But they were ill-commanded, and their gallantry did not save them from crushing defeat by the poorly disciplined and armed American forces. And though it may be said that the cause for which they were fighting nevered the Americans, while the absence of personal interest in the issue of the war must have weakened the mercenaries of King George, the latter assumption is hardly permissible. They belonged to a people who had been so used to being the mere tools of their superiors as to regard this as the normal condition of things. They were in effect fighting machines merely, and marched and charged with the same regularity and fidelity no matter what they were fighting about. They did not indeed relish the prospect of American campaigning, and when it was first announced to them something like a mutinous spirit was exhibited. This was promptly overcome by the summary shooting of the most conspicuous objectors, and when the rest saw the corpses of their comrades lying on the ground it is not surprising that they forthwith shouted "Burrah for America!"

The journal of Lieutenant Digby was found, among the archives in the British Museum in 1855, and he became so interested in it that he determined, if possible, to procure a copy, and to print it with annotations. The notes are full, most interesting and opposite. There are sufficient maps, plans and illustrations, and the whole is crowned by an excellent index.

to account for the butchery of Miss McCrea. And so it probably was, for the Indians were not particular whom they murdered, and killed Tories as well as Americans. But we have proof that, after all, in this case the Indians were innocent of murder, and that Miss McCrea was killed unintentionally by the Americans. Let us examine the evidence.

Miss McCrea had been invited by David Jones to visit the British camp and accompany several ladies there in an excursion on Lake George. He was troubled by her exposure to danger by the Indians, and intended to press her to marry him at once, that he might be better able to afford her protection. Mrs. McNeil and she were just about to embark under the charge of Lieutenant Palmer and a few soldiers, when, knowing that the Americans were in the vicinity, the Lieutenant and his men left them for a few minutes to reconnoiters. While the British soldiers were absent, some of their Indian allies came up and seized Mrs. McNeil and Miss McCrea, and, placing the latter upon a horse, hurried away, pursued by a party of Americans, who were close at hand. The Americans fired upon the Indians, one of whom, Wyandot Panther, was leading the horse upon which Miss McCrea sat. Mrs. McNeil became separated from Miss McCrea, and did not witness her death, but said afterward that the Americans fired so high as not to injure the Indians, who were on foot. Wyandot Panther, when examined by Burgoyne, affirmed that Miss McCrea was killed by the Americans, who were pursuing him; and General Fraser at a post-mortem investigation, gave it as his opinion that she was thus killed by the Americans "aiming too high, when the mark was on the ground," as had occurred at Bunker's (Breed's) Hill. But, in addition to this, we now have more positive proof in the testimony of General Morgan Lewis, to the effect that she had three distinct gunshots upon her body, and from the additional fact that when the body was removed, a few years ago, to a new burial place, no mark of a tomahawk nor injury of any kind was found upon the skull."

This conclusion is the more curious because it is evident that Burgoyne himself believed Miss McCrea to have been killed by the Indians. The proof of this is to be found in his letter to General Gates of September 3. Gates reproached him for the cruelties committed by the Indians, especially mentioning the case of Miss McCrea, saying:

"Miss McCrea, a young lady lovely to the sight, of virtuous character and amiable disposition, engaged to be married to an officer of your army, was with other women and children, taken out of a house near Fort Edward, carried into the woods, and there scalped and mangled in the most shocking manner." Gates was wrong about the "other women and children," but Burgoyne replied as follows concerning Miss McCrea:

"Respecting Miss McCrea: Her fall wanted not the tragic display you have labored to give it, to make it as surely abhorred and lamented by me as it can possibly be by the tenderness of her friends. The fact was no premeditated barbarity, on the contrary, two chiefs who had brought her off for the purpose of security, not of violence to her person, disputed who should be her guard, and in a fit of savage passion in the one from whose hands she was snatched, the unhappy woman became the victim."

Address of Miss McCrea's parents received from the family.

**A.—MISS WARREN'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** With Boys' DEPARTMENT. Reopens Sept. 27. 11 West 42d-st.

**C.—CLASSICAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 1921 Madison-ave., near 125th-st., with Boys' Department. All ages admitted to University. Terms without examination. Primary and advanced departments. Terms for summer. Reopens Oct. 1. Miss N. C. ARKIN, Principal.

**D.—MISS HARRIOTT NORRIS' MADISON-SCHOOL.** At home. Reopen Sept. 27.

**E.—MISS WARREN'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 11 Madison-ave. Reopen MONDAY, OCTOBER 1st.

Five pupils received into the family.

**F.—MADAME C. MEARS'S ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN.** Boarding and Day School for young ladies.

reopens Monday, Oct. 1.

**G.—MADAME A. C. MEARS, Principal.** 222 Madison-ave., CO., Bankers, 60 William- St., N. Y.

**H.—MISS ELIZABETH L. KOTES' BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** Reopens Oct. 1. Graduate prepared for college.

**I.—MISS GRIFFITH'S DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.** No. 414 Madison-ave., near Forty-eighth-st. Kindergarten for girls.

**J.—MADAME E. MOORE WILL RECEIVE BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 15 East 52d-st., New York.

**K.—MISS ANNIE BROWN'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** Reopen October 1.

**L.—MISS SUSAN M. AMBRIDGE'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 106 East 33d-st., near Park-ave., Wednesday, October 3. Circulars on application.

**M.—MISS GALLAHER'S SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.** 51 West Fifty-second-st.

**N.—REOPENS OCT. 8. CIRCULARS.**

**O.—MISS CHISHOLM'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 15 East 65th-st., New York. Will reopen October 8. Boys' Classes.

**P.—MADISON-SCHOOL.** 262 Madison-ave., School for Girls. Number limited.

**Q.—MADAME GIOVANNI'S SUPERIOR FINISHING FAMILY SCHOOL.** Young ladies, infants, school girls, Kindergarten, Primary, Preparatory and Boarding Departments. 55-56 West 55th-st. Rev. G. W. SAMSON, D. D., Pres.

**R.—THE MISSES GRAHAM WILL REOPEN THEIR BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5.** 53 Fifth-av.

**S.—THE COMSTOCK SCHOOL.** (Established 1862.) 102d-st., No. 28 West 15th-st. Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies. Misses DAY in charge.

**T.—THE MISSES GRINNELL WILL REOPEN THEIR DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 20 East 42d-st. Separate classes for boys, October 1. Kindergarten, October 10.

**U.—THE THREE MISSES MOSSES' BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN.** With E. D. ANTHONY, Director.

**V.—THE THREE MISSES WHEARE'S BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 102d-st., Oct. 1. Circulars on application Oct. 1.

**W.—THE THREE MISSES GRAHAM WILL REOPEN THEIR DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** 20 East 42d-st.

**X.—THE WEST END AVENUE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** Reopen October 1.

**Y.—THE WEST END AVENUE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.** Reopen October 1.

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